

DBQ Short Essay Writing Guidelines

General:

- Never personalize the essay. Do not write “I”, “me”, “you”, or “in my essay.”
- Opinions are written in past tense as statements: “He was the best ruler in history.”
- Essays have an introduction paragraph, one body paragraph, and a conclusion.

Introduction:

- Introduce the historical context: where, when, and why this took place
- You must create a thesis statement!
 - Write a sentence that states the main idea that will be in the body paragraph without saying “In this essay” or “this essay will prove”
- You may use/reword the question provided

Body:

- Remember ICE: **I**ntroduce the idea, **C**ite a document, and **E**xplain the document!
- Use at least two DBQ documents
- Always cite documents using parenthetical citations
 - Example: “We are endeavoring to teach the native races to conduct” (Doc 4)
 - Do not write: “Document 4 shows...” “As shown in the diagram in Doc 6...”

Conclusion:

- Write several summary sentences that restate the main idea of the body paragraph and rewrite your thesis statement.

Short Essay Rubric:

	5	4	3	2	1
Claim/Thesis Statement	Student included a thesis and three claims	Student included a thesis and two claims	Student included a thesis and one claim	Student included a thesis without a claim.	Student did not include a thesis or claim.
Properly cited citation	Student properly cited two documents.	Student properly cited one document.	Student mentioned document but it is not properly cited.	Student mentioned document without analysis.	Student did not mention or cite a document.
Content Vocabulary	Student used at least three vocabulary words.	Student used two vocabulary words.	Student used one vocabulary word.	Student used vocabulary words incorrectly.	Student did not use any vocabulary words.
Format (Mechanics/ Grammar)	Student has three clear paragraphs with minimal mechanical and grammatical errors.	Student has three clear paragraphs with a few mechanical and grammatical errors.	Student has two clear paragraphs with many mechanical and grammatical errors.	Student has one clear and concise paragraph	Students does not have coherent paragraphs